

REMARKS

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-14 remain in the application, with claim 1, 6, 9, and 14 in independent form. Claims 1-4 have been amended to specify that the claimed polysiloxane film is a “self-supporting” polysiloxane film, and claims 6-8 have been similarly amended to claim a method of manufacturing a self-supporting polysiloxane film. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been amended to eliminate the claim language “in one molecule” to address the Examiner’s indefiniteness rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. The other amendments to claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been made due to discrepancies in translation from the priority document or to correct grammar, and these other amendments have no material effect on the substance of those claims. No new claims have been added. Claim 5 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added through the present Amendment.

Claims 1-8 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by numerous references including U.S. Patent Nos. 5,739,948 to Kushibiki et al., 4,557,887 to Ona et al., and 6,358,615 to Imai et al., and Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 52-86985 and 4-20570. Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kushibiki et al.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112.

As to these rejections, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, and 13 to eliminate the claim language “in one molecule”, as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants

note that the claim language in these claims is open-ended, and other components, reactive or not, may be present in the resulting film. Further, the claim element of “a polysiloxane having an unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group” needs no further definition with regard to the inclusion of unsaturated groups therein, and the open-ended nature of the claims do not foreclose the possibility of the presence of other polysiloxanes that do not include unsaturated groups so long as the element of a polysiloxane having an unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group is met, and so long as the other elements of the claims at issue are met. Further, the claim element of a polysiloxane having an unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group also does not foreclose the possibility of additional groups present in the polysiloxane, including additional unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon groups.

In view of the amendments to the claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome and must now be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

As to these rejections, the Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1-4 and 6-8 overcome these rejections. More specifically, in the current Office Action, the Examiner has already expressly recognized, in the context of claims 9-14, the patentable significance of the self-supporting nature of the claimed cross-linked polysiloxane and has indicated that claims 9-14 are allowable over the prior art. None of the references relied upon by the Examiner disclose or teach a self-supporting polysiloxane film. By amending claims 1-4 to specify that the claimed polysiloxane film is self-supporting, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 have now been brought into line with the allowable features of claims 9-

14. Similarly, claims 6-8 have also been amended to claim a method of manufacturing a “self-supporting” polysiloxane film.

In view of the amendments to claims 1-4 and 6-8, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 are overcome and that these claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

While the Applicants believe that no fees are presently due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS

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Date

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